

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the present patent application, with claims 17 and 27 having been withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-16, 18-26 and 31 having been allowed in the Office Action.

In Section 2 of the Office Action mailed on May 19, 2008, in the above-referenced patent application, the Examiner objects to the drawings because Figures 1-5 should be designed by a legend such as -- Prior Art -- because only that which is old is illustrated. Also, the Examiner states that "ARTE NOTA" should be deleted from the figures under MPEP § 608.02(g). Amended drawings in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121(d) accompany this response as replacement sheets. The figures have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's comments and to correct additional informal errors detected by the undersigned. None of these amendments introduces any new matter into the application.

In Section 3 of the current Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 28 and 29 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,672,236 to Toda et al. ("Toda"). The Toda patent relates to a voltage-to-frequency converter which is directed to the processing of "analog" signals in order to change their frequency values by applying voltage control. Conversely, the present application generally and claim 28 specifically relates to a method of reducing the noise on digital input signals which may contain noise. Moreover, as has been made expressly clear in amended claim 28, the digital input signals being processed have a substantially constant frequency. This is contrary to Toda in which the voltage-to-frequency converter operates on analog signals having varying frequencies.

For at least these reasons, the combination of elements recited in amended claim 28 is allowable. Dependent claim 29 depends from claim 28 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 28 and due to the additional limitations added by this dependent claim. In Section 4 of the current Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 30 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Toda in view of US Patent No. 6,269,388 to Pioppo et al. ("Pioppo"). Dependent claim 30 also depends from claim 28 and is accordingly allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 28 and due to the additional limitations added by this dependent claim.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. **Should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to arrange for a telephone interview to discuss the outstanding issues.** If the need for any fee in addition to any fee paid with this response is found, for any reason or at any point during the prosecution of this application, kindly consider this a petition therefore and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account 07-1897.

Respectfully submitted,

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